

BOOKS I LIKE

AND WHY I LIKE THEM



The St. Louis Public Library Collection of Favorites

Second Edition

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ST. LOUIS
1913

FOREWORD TO FIRST EDITION

THESE twenty lists, each of which is by a different person, and no two by the same one, have appeared from time to time in the pages of the Monthly Bulletin of the St. Louis Public Library, beginning December 1910, and ending with November 1912. The series was the result of an attempt to make the personal equation count for a little more in the compilation of book-lists. The lists are the expression of personal likes, not necessarily of critical approval, and they are probably in most cases not lists of the books that the writers like best. Nor are the annotations necessarily critical, although they may be so in some cases. The lists are precisely what the title indicates, and no more than this; and the editor has the utmost confidence in the good faith of the various writers. He does not believe that a single one of them is posing.

There has not been the slightest attempt to "balance" the lists, or even to inquire in what proportions they are made up of one or another class of literature. Until the numerical summary by classes was made for the present compilation, the editor did not know, for instance, whether the lists contained more history than travel, or vice versa. He may have suspected that fiction would lead; but then fiction will always lead, so long as it is the only class of literature whose writers realize that it is their duty to interest the reader.

The number of authors represented in the twenty lists is 221 and only 50 of them are on more than one list. The catholicity of taste shown in the lists is further illustrated by the fact that the favorite author, Clemens, appears in only six of the twenty lists, and that only one of his books appears in two lists. None of the favorite books appears in more than three lists and only two in as many as this, namely, Kipling's *Jungle Book* and Lear's *Nonsense Book*. Besides these, only 20 books appear in more than one list. This may be partly due to the avoidance, in making out the lists, of titles that had appeared previously, but it appears to reflect also the variety of individual taste.

ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK.

St. Louis Public Library,
December 1912.

FOREWORD TO SECOND EDITION

The unexpected demand for this collection of lists has made necessary the issue of a new edition. The matter has been entirely reset, mistakes have been corrected, and the whole appears in a more fitting dress.

A. E. B.

June 11th, 1913

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S145b2

Books I Like and Why I Like Them

No. 1

Austen, J. *Pride and prejudice.* 69b

I like the delicate style which gives all the details of the little picture with the faithfulness of a photograph. Then, I love those perfect idiots, Mrs. Bennet and Mr. Collins, as well as the eminently sensible Elizabeth.

Carmichael, M. *Life of John William Walshe.* 69b

The style of the book interests me, and I love the character of John William Walshe, who, with all his saintliness, has his funny little whims and foibles.

Clemens, S. L. *Huckleberry Finn.* 69b

I enjoy the excitement and humor of the adventures of Huck and Nigger Jim, and the picture of the life on the great Mississippi in the old times.

Dickens, C. *Pickwick papers.* 69b

The characters of the book are all amusing and their adventures are highly improbable, but very funny. My favorite in the book is Sam Weller, whose original humor is only equaled by his devotion to Mr. Pickwick.

Daudet, A. *Letters from my mill.* 69b

The style of the book is charming. I never tire reading the stories of The last class, M. Seguin's goat, The pope is dead—in fact, all of them, for their plots and atmosphere.

Fletcher, B. and B. F. *History of architecture, on the comparative method.* 65a

This is a very clear exposition of a subject which has always interested me. By the system of comparisons throughout the book, I finally got to know the difference between Byzantine and Romanesque, and English and French Gothic, which was quite an achievement.

Gregory, A. (P.), *Lady. Gods and fighting men.* 15

The book gives a vivid picture of ancient Ireland and is full of all sorts of exciting adventure. I love the half real, half fairy Diarmuid, Grania, Finn and Ossian.

Guerin, E. de. Journal.**97b**

This is an account of a very humdrum, quiet life, but all the little details are treated with the greatest charm. It has many lovely bits of description of simple things whose beauty is overlooked by most people. Besides, the character of Eugenie herself is very lovable.

Joinville, J. de. St. Louis, King of France.**97b**

The life of one of my greatest heroes, written by his friend and associate. It is full of quaint touches and interesting detail, giving a lively picture of the trials and joys of the old crusaders.

Shakespeare, W. As you like it.**822.33**

The outdoor fairy setting of the play in the Forest of Arden appeals to me. I also enjoy the humor, the story of the play, and like the characters.

Smith, F. H. Gondola days.**914.53**

In the first place, the book is about Venice. Then, it tells of many interesting things that you do not get any idea of from sober histories or practical guide books. The style is delightful and personal.

Stevenson, R. L. Travels with a donkey.**914.4**

This is a story of leisurely travel in a country which interests me very much. I enjoy the outdoor descriptions, and the little incidents of the journey. In addition, I admire the style of the book, and the man who wrote it.

Tennyson, A. Idylls of the king.**821**

All the mediaeval romances have great fascination for me, but most of all the King Arthur cycle of stories. The far-away romantic setting, the adventures of the knights, the spells of Merlin, all interest me. I love the characters in these stories, and in the case of the Idylls, the beautiful way Tennyson tells of them.

Theocritus. Idylls.**884**

The pictures of the life of the old Greek shepherds are full of beauty. Many of their thoughts and much of their conversation is very modern. The idylls made me feel that the Greeks were a very human, companionable people, in spite of their wonderful achievements.

No. 2**Arabian Nights.****398**

The picture of an alien civilization perfect in its way and as stimulating as travel to the stay-at-home, while its wizardry is as fascinating to "grown-ups" as fairy lore is to children.

Bernard of Cluny. *De Conspectu Coeli.*

Filled with a longing for things celestial that is like a sweet pain. The translated fragments of Neale—"Jerusalem the Golden" and the others—reflect it, but only faintly, as they are unfortunately in a different metre.

Bryce, J. *American commonwealth.* 26

The most just, sympathetic and inspiring account of things American ever penned.

Doyle, A. C. *Sherlock Holmes.* 69b

An example of how one may come to love the impossible. No one ever wrote detective stories like these and no imitations have approached them. As fast as I forget the plots I re-read them.

Harland, H. *Short stories.* 69b

I like these even better than his "Cardinal's Snuff-box," which is a masterpiece in its way. Humorous, grotesque, sweet, pathetic, whimsical—altogether adjective-exhausting tales.

Heine, H. *All his lyrics.*

They have the ballad-spirit, its careless swing, its utter lack of the complexities. I never tire of *Die Lorelei*, hackneyed as it is.

Henry, O., pseud. *Short stories.*

The inventor of new forms of humor, chief among them the peculiar use of big words and stilted phraseology that he puts into the mouths of his rough and semi-educated characters. Besides this, the humanity and kindness of his best stories and his fertility of invention makes them worth reading.

Holmes, O. W. *Autocrat of the breakfast table.* 817

One of the few really humorous American books. Most of our so-called humor is wit—it makes you laugh aloud. This makes you smile inside.

Hope, A., pseud. *Dolly dialogues.* 69b

Wit that is epigrammatic without the traditional sting, but instead of it an occasional jolt that stimulates thought. Cynicism with touches of humanity.

Kipling, R.

Nearly all the short stories, especially those of India, like "The man who was" and "The man who would be king"; and those with a tinge of the occult, like "The greatest story in the world" and "The brushwood boy." Kipling is distinctly a male story-teller; he is discursive when discursiveness lends atmosphere, and incisive, even brusque, when the story requires it. Every tale teems with richness; he never dilutes.

Melville, G. W. In the Lena delta. 919.8

The best-written book of Arctic adventure. Heroic deeds simply told by a hero.

Poe, E. A.

Almost everything he ever wrote, but particularly the Cask of Amontillado and The Gold Bug. The greatest literary genius that we ever produced.

Ruskin, J. Modern painters. 65c

The most gorgeous word-painting ever achieved by stringing together English syllables.

Scott, Sir W. Quentin Durward. 69b

The peculiar combination of Scott's genius with his choice of characters and setting in this particular book has always fascinated me.

Thomas of Celano. Dies irae. 9a

This wonderful medieval poem is as relentless as a thunderstorm and has the bass music of some of Grieg's Scandinavian pieces.

Trevelyan, Sir G. O. American Revolution. 973.3

The most successful recent attempt to make the dry bones of history live. It is so anecdotal as to be almost gossipy, and yet the story moves steadily.

Trollope, A. Novels, especially the Barchester series. 69b

These books I could not abide when I was younger, but the prosy matter-of-factness that then repelled me has now come to exert a sort of chastened fascination.

Wells, H. G.

Earlier stories such as The Time Machine, The Invisible Man and The Island of Dr. Moreau—these I like far better than his later and more ambitious efforts. They are logically worked out and there is allegory between the lines for the astute.

Wilkins, M. E. Short stories. 69b

Nearly all of them are masterpieces of character delineation in a somewhat narrow field. She has unwittingly done New England harm by leading her readers to regard that field as co-extensive with reality, but that is not her fault.

Wister, O. Lady Baltimore. 69b

Our most delicate and sympathetic literary workman, who writes only when he has something to say and then says it incomparably.

No. 3

Amiel, H. F. *Amiel's journal.*

97b

The author's power of self-analysis and his vivid poetical descriptions appeal to me. He seems to feel so intensely all the beauty by which he is surrounded that he makes it visible to the reader. Yet the undercurrent of hopeless sadness betokens a man who has lost his hold on life.

Bazin, R. *La terre qui meurt.*

69e

Not only the author's even and forceful style and beautiful French are pleasing, but the story is so striking. It depicts the threatened conditions in French agricultural life, the desolation of the land deserted by the younger generation, who swarm to the cities to fall victims to poverty and disillusion. The description of the funeral among the Fens is a masterpiece, full of pathos, and so vivid that it passes before the eyes like a reflection of the real.

Benson, A. C. *Thread of gold.*

824

A collection of jewel-like mosaics. With his superlative love of nature and his joy in all beauty, Benson possesses a rare gift of expression; the very phrasing and choice of words is so perfect as to be a delight. Over all the delicate, fleeting impressions of humanity and nature at its loveliest, there hovers an intangible shadow. One feels that the man is a sufferer, mentally or physically, that his grasp at times becomes weak, and that he suffers doubly thereby.

Benson, E. F. *The Osbornes.*

69b

No one can help loving the good-hearted, unpretentious family. They are charming because so natural and unassuming; all the little foibles and peculiarities are faithfully portrayed, but lose force among the lovable qualities of the old couple. Their unshaken love and loyal admiration for each other, the unspoiled enjoyment of wealth and social success, would become Baucis and Philemon.

Brookfield, C. H. E. *and Mrs. F. Mrs. Brookfield and her circle.*

97b

Intensely interesting because it introduces one so intimately to people of note and achievement, not in the glare of publicity, as they are usually seen, but in the delightful home circle with delightful friends. One realizes that one's heroes are human, though touched with the divine spark.

Coulevain, P. de. *L'isle inconnue.*

69e

The writer reveals the gift of impartial judgment to an unusually high degree; she has studied national characteristics with an unbiased mind, and in all her criticism she is fair alike in praise and censure. She unerringly puts her finger on the weak points, but tracing them to their causes, makes allow-

ances. Her philosophy of life is sound, and like a true optimist, she thinks that the good in life far outweighs the evil.

Dickens, C. Tale of two cities. 69b

Though Dickens' delicious humor is greatly missing in this book, to my mind it is the most dramatic, powerful thing he ever wrote. He seems to have absorbed the troublous spirit of the times; his grewsome Madame LaFarge has become a living personality and stands for the horror of the Revolution, while Sidney Carton is a type of the many heroes of the Terror.

Edwardes, T. Lift luck on southern roads. 914.2

It is the most alluring account of an autumn wandering. Haste is far from the traveler's mind; he saunters between hedgerows bright with scarlet foliage and berries, over downs where the breeze nips shrewdly, through misty woods with leaves rustling under foot, asking a lift on his way from any form of conveyance passing, and exchanging views on life with many quaint characters.

Evelyn, J. Diary. 97b

Written at about the same time as that of Pepys, it is such an utter contrast, that both should be read to obtain a correct impression of the period. Evelyn, too, consorts with the great men of the period, and has to do with state affairs, but finds time to travel much and read widely. He is full of dignity, does not condescend to gossip, and is interested especially in the noteworthy matters of the day, be they scientific, artistic or literary.

Franck, H. A. Vagabond journey around the world. 910.4

The pluck and endurance of the man move to admiration. He undergoes hardships and privations, even puts his life at stake scores of times, but he sticks to his purpose. He reveals the shady side of globe-trotting; we see the world from a new and enlightening point of view.

Lowe, W. H. Chronicle of friendships. 97b

It is the narrative of a man among men; thrown among the moving spirits of the artistic and literary world, his chronicle runs the gamut from the Bohemian camaraderie of student days to the close and sympathetic friendships of the successful artist. In the pages are seen R. L. Stevenson, St. Gaudens and others in a new and very human light.

Maeterlinck, M. Pelleas and Melisande. 842

In addition to the beauty and delicacy of the style, the poetry of the language, the quaintness and mediaeval character of the setting, there is a mysticism about the story, a half-felt, underlying, hidden meaning that stimulates the imagination, and tempts one to the thankless task of interpreting another's ideas.

Morris, W. Well at the world's end. 69b

Morris' tales possess the charm of fairy tales. The variety of theme, beauty and purity of phrasing, the musical flow and cadence of the lines, and fitness of treatment to times are entrancing. His men and women are splendid creatures unspoiled by civilization. The idyllic quest for the fabled well over sunny plains and strange rocky fastnesses, and the adventures of the seekers fascinate from beginning to end.

Pepys, S. Diary. 97b

Possesses an unusual interest because of the very detailed account of his times. Holding an office under the crown, he was closely connected with the court, and his remarks and (perhaps innocently) severe criticisms are full of good sense and humor. He reveals the ins and outs of court life without restraint. He impresses one as being a bustling busy-body, fond of good living, fine clothes and gossip, with his finger in many pies.

Phillpotts, E. Three brothers. 69b

Phillpotts' stories of Devonshire life are full of the atmosphere of the country he pictures so lovingly in detail; and he unrolls vista after vista of rolling down and misty hollow, broken by masses of beetling crags. His characters are full of quaint wisdom and pithy remarks. The three brothers are as different in nature as in appearance; each is admirable in his way, and not for a moment is any individuality lost or weakened. The book gains in strength to the very end.

Waddington, Mrs. M. A. (K.) Chateau and country life in France. 914.4

Though lacking any great literary merit, the book is chatty and keeps one closely in touch with the interesting events in court life and diplomatic circles abroad, with a charming picture of family life.

No. 4

Austen, J. Emma. 69b

All of her novels are a recreation; being old-fashioned, they have no problems to vex.

Balzac, H. de. Père Goriot. 69b

To me the most powerful, terrible and yet fascinating tale I ever read.

Burns, R. Poems. 821

Next to Shakespeare I would choose Burns, not as the greatest poet—but to re-read for the human interest in his poems.

Carroll, L. Alice in Wonderland. 70

A source of joy to me when a child, though its peculiar humor could not be wholly appreciated until later. Some one has said that he liked Shakespeare because he is so full of quotations—even so Alice.

Crothers, S. M. Gentle reader. 814

These are such cheerful essays, from the reader's point of view, and brim full of humor.

DeQuincey, T. Confessions of an English opium eater. 824

My interest was held by the honesty, the horror, perhaps, and the brilliancy of this autobiography.

Dickens, C. Our mutual friend. 69b

On the whole, I believe, the most interesting of Dickens' works. The kindly Boffins give a cheerful tone to the whole story.

Dunbar, P. L. Folks from Dixie. 69b

I was greatly interested in these bright dialect stories because they were written by a Negro himself.

Eliot, G. Silas Marner. 69b

It stands in my recollection above all other fiction—a literary gem.

Grahame, K. Golden age. 69b

A lifelike portrait of my own not altogether understood grown-up relations as they appeared to me in childhood. Its style is delightful.

Harris, J. C. Uncle Remus. 15

Folklore in any form appeals to me, but I enjoy particularly the quaint Negro dialect and fancies of Uncle Remus.

Irving, W. Astoria. 917.8

Pioneer schemes always attract me, and this particular adventure, a part of our history, I found especially interesting.

Jenks, T. In the days of Goldsmith. 97b

A little book that may be read in an evening or two—a picturesque and entertaining glimpse of the man and his time.

Meredith, G. Egoist. 69b

This, of course, held my attention by its mere story interest, then as a characteristic work of Meredith. Some phases of the story seemed improbable to me, but it has suggested the fact that exaggerated egotism exists in numerous cases clothed in as many fashions.

Sardars, M. F. Honoré de Balzac.

97b

Certain biographies appeal to me more than do most stories, and this is one of them, for the incidents of Balzac's life are safely removed from the commonplace and a knowledge of his experiences is a real factor in the enjoyment of his writings.

No. 5

Browning, R. and E. B. Letters.

97b

Liking is an inadequate word for the feeling with which one reads this self-revelation of two beautiful natures, each so eager to give and so reluctant to demand or accept sacrifice from the other. It is a deep satisfaction to find in their lives, in even greater measure, the nobility that inspires their verse. It is a wonderful love story.

Clemens, S. L. Following the equator.

910.4

On the whole, I like *Following the Equator* best of all of Mark Twain's books. As a record of travel it is vivid and accurate and full of sympathetic observation, and the humor is spontaneous and unforced.

Conrad, J. Romance.

69b

I like *Romance* because it is romance, packed down, heaped up and running over. It is crammed full of adventure related in the rich and sombre vocabulary in which Conrad is unexcelled.

Dickinson, G. L. Letters from a Chinese official.

29

An eloquent comparison of two civilizations by one of the most accomplished masters of English style writing today. A sympathetic and able defense of Chinese life and ethics and a severe indictment of Western arrogance. There is much food for thought in the finished sentences of this study of an alien people.

Galsworthy, J. Fraternity.

69b

——— Man of property.

69b

To my mind Galsworthy is the ablest novelist of the present time. He lays bare the weaknesses of society with an appalling clearness and brilliancy, and yet he is not hard. Although he unflinchingly "paints the things as he saw them," there is infinite compassion in his attitude. That he attempts no solution of the unforgettable problems he presents makes him none the less an artist.

Hewlett, M. The queen's quair.

69b

This story of Queen Mary of Scotland has made her more intelligible to me than any of her historians have succeeded in doing. The traditional charm, which has so completely eluded

her portrait painters, does seem hers in these pages, and the background of intrigue, treachery and brutality of the Scottish court brings out her figure as that of one greatly sinned against as well as sinning.

James, H. *The Princess Casamassima.* 69b

This seems to me the most touching and tragic of the stories of Henry James. It is simply told, quite free from the twists and inversions that disfigure his later work, but full of penetration and subtlety. The figure of Hyacinth is almost unbearable in its pathos.

Janvier, T. A. *In the Sargasso Sea.* 69b

The most interesting sea story I ever read, possibly because it is less nautical and less given to riggings and "ship ahoy's" than most of its class. The old sailors' legend of the South Atlantic has been skillfully used as the basis of the story, and to my mind the recent scientific expedition that has demonstrated that there is no such thing as the Sargasso Sea might have been more usefully employed.

Kipling, R. *The jungle books.* 70

For the lover of animals and the lover of fairy tales there is many an hour of unalloyed enjoyment to be found in the company of Mowgli and his friends and tutors of the jungle. Nowhere does Kipling's genius weave a stronger spell than in these stories for children of all ages.

Lamb, C. *Essays of Elia.* 824

Not all the praises of all the critics have been able to take away the charm that abides in *The essays of Elia*. Their quaintness and grace and quiet humor are a perennial refreshment.

Martin, Mrs. G. (M.) *Emmy Lou.* 69b

I like *Emmy Lou* because she is absolutely convincing. A simple, ingenuous child, she moves and breathes and has her being in the daily round of childish experiences. Her story is so well told that one sees only the clear little picture and forgets the art that painted it.

Meynell, Mrs. A. C. (T.) *The rhythm of life, and other essays* 824

It is their fineness and distinction that gives these essays their place in my regard. Fresh in thought and exquisite in expression, they are perfect of their kind.

Moody, W. V. *The fire bringer.* 812

On first reading *The fire bringer* I felt that here at last was an American who was a poet that wrote of great themes in the grand style. It does not suffer by comparison with the Greek dramas on which it is modeled, and its majesty and beauty give it, in my estimation, the first place in the achievements of its author.

Shakespeare, W. Hamlet 822.33

Whenever I re-read Hamlet, or see it acted, I wonder why I have allowed so much water to flow under the bridge since last enjoying that great pleasure. It is for me, as for a pro-founder critic, "The topmost flower on the tree of literature," and the feeling with which the volume is closed is that of absolute satisfaction.

Shakespeare, W. Macbeth. 822.33

It is for sheer beauty of sound that I read Macbeth, and wade through its seas of blood.

Shaw, G. B. Plays. 822

I have a great admiration for Bernard Shaw, notwithstanding his colossal impertinences. He is so keen, so logical and so witty, and his most daring attacks on conventions are so essentially clean-minded, that I find him wholesome as well as stimulating.

Thackeray, W. M. Henry Esmond. 69b

According to the science of eugenics Henry Esmond would have no showing at all in the hero class, but he continues to hold his own in my affections and loses nothing by comparison with the invincible gentlemen that reform politics and bust trusts, or drive motor cars, in the newest fiction. With all his faults, and perhaps because of them, I love him still, and certainly I could better spare many a better man.

Tolstoi, L. N. War and peace. 69b

It is in the thousand naive pictures of youth, of the individual and of the race, that I find the charm of this great mosaic. Nowhere can I recall such a portrayal of the vague yearnings and holy aspirations of human souls finding expression in unworthy and inadequate actions, to the bewilderment and despair of the actors themselves. The glass is held up to nature and it is living figures that it reflects.

Wells, H. G. A modern Utopia. 69b

No form of fiction interests me more than the ideal states that philosophers have imagined, and of these sociological dreams that of Mr. Wells pleases me most. His pictured civilization appears so reasonable, so possible, that it seems incredible that we go on in the old sordid, blundering way when the path to a more beautiful world has been so clearly pointed out.

Yeats, W. B. Land of the heart's desire. 822

When facts and machinery and brick walls have become unendurable, there is a way of escape to Fairyland by the pleasant path of the *Land of the heart's desire*. Glamor and illusion are in its atmosphere and the sense of unseen but compelling powers surrounding mortal men. The effect of spontaneity in a deliberate going back to old forms and feelings is quite remarkable.

No. 6

- Arnold, M.** Sohrab and Rustum. 821
 Filled with the splendor and fatalism of the East. One of the most stirring pieces of blank verse in our language.
- Clemens, S. L.** Innocents abroad. 914
 I think the author never had so much fun as when living and writing this book.
- Eliot, G., pseud.** Daniel Deronda. 69b
 The nearest to romance that the author ever came.
- Emerson, R. W.** Essays. 814
 Not to be read in large installments, but full of unexpected inspirations.
- Fiske, J.** Critical period of American history. 973.3
 The most absorbing volume of any American historian.
- Gray, T.** Elegy written in a country church-yard.
 Its polished verses appealed to me early and I have never ceased to be fond of them.
- Green, J. R.** History of the English people. 942
 The author himself loves his subject, and tells the story of his England with an affectionate eloquence.
- Hawthorne, N.** Twice told tales. 69b
 I like them better than Poe's because they are less intense and never horrible. The style has a wonderful even flow.
- Kipling, R.** Jungle books. 70
 They are unique. No talking animals ever seemed life-like before.
- Milton, J.** Lycidas. 821
 For its "high seriousness" and lyric beauty.
- Roosevelt, T.** American ideals. 304
 They are a good tonic for any of us.
- Scott, Sir W.** Lady of the lake. 821
 Not great poetry, but great romance.
- Shakespeare, W.** Plays and sonnets. 822.33
 It is quite impossible to choose from among them, but his name heads the list.

- Tennyson, A.** Locksley Hall. 821
It is so altogether musical.
- Thackeray, W. M.** Henry Esmond. 69b
One of the most lovable characters in English fiction—a reflection perhaps of the author himself.
- Seton-Thompson, E.** Lives of the hunted. 69b
The reader shares the author's sympathy with the splendid animals, whose very superiority over their fellows makes each a mark for the hunter, and carries each off in his prime.
- Wordsworth, W.** Ode on intimations of immortality. 821
It will draw anyone to at least an abstract love of nature, and many of its lines are unforgettable.

No. 7

- Allen, J. L.** A summer in Arcady. 69b
His books read like the best of the "old country" novels. The warm, deep background of local history and color often makes me forget that he was born and raised in the "New World." And then, the fine portraiture of the moods of men rather than their actions, the presentation of general truths in the garb of his local personages, lifts him to the pedestal of a first class author.
- Dickens, C.** Tale of two cities. 69b
Practically all the characters of this story have vanished from my mind except Sidney Carton, who is a live man with me today as he was at the moment when the axe of the guillotine fell upon him. The dramatic turn in the road of Carton's almost wasted life, this supreme act of revived love and friendship, his instantaneous conversion to splendid manhood, are lodged in my memory as a powerful preachment.
- Hilty, C.** Happiness. 170.4
The two opposing forces of philosophy at the beginning of the Christian era, i. e., the Stoic school of thought and the teachings of Jesus, both still throbbing with ever increasing vitality, have finally been welded into a harmonious whole in the seven little essays of this Swiss thinker.
- Hyde, W. DeWitt.** From Epicurus to Christ. 5
The Epicurean pursuit of pleasure, genial but ungenerous; the Stoic law of self-control, strenuous but forbidding; the Platonic plan of subordination, sublime but ascetic; the Aristotelean sense of proportion, practical but uninspiring; and the "Christian spirit of love, broadest and deepest of them all," are the five great themes here treated. The reading of this book requires no academic preparation.

London, J. Call of the wild. 69b

Heredity, environment and free will, we are told, are the three determinants of man. Does the last-named attribute enter into a dog's life? London assumes it does and so makes "Buck" almost a rational creature. Around this nucleus a story is built up, bristling with originality and descriptive talent. To know "Buck" is to love him.

Morgan, L. H. Ancient society. 51

If the present, with all its complexities, is the outcome of the human mind of the past, then man stands bewildered in the presence of his own creation. Smarting under that bewilderment I read this book and the enlightenment which I have gained from it has made me forever indebted to the painstaking, scholarly author. The answer to that stubborn question, "Quo vadis domine!" given in this standard work on ethnology is the prediction of the revival, in a higher form, of the religion, the liberty and the fraternity of the ancient "gentes."

Morley, M. W. Life and love. 591

This is no book of slushy sentimentality, nor is it an array of dry scientific facts, but a true story of nature and her methods of reproduction as only a woman can write it. The delicacy of thought and expression, the poetic insight by which she reveals nature as God's willing handmaid makes this little volume superb reading for young and old.

Morris, W. Story of Sigurd. 821

Morris is to me the poetic story-teller by right divine. There is so much metrical prose palmed off for poetry, so much smart juggling with iambic and dactylic measures; in a word, so much bombastic counterfeit in the province of rhyme and rhythm that I heave a sigh of relief when I read and re-read the "Story of Sigurd." Redeemed sensuousness and purified passion are in every line and stanza. Form and substance are simple and natural. The ensemble approaches the ideal of all beauty, which is that the highest of art and the purest of nature shall be identical.

Ouida, pseud. Under two flags. 69b

I can not forget Cigarette's dog-like faithfulness to the man of her choice, who was a half-god to her and to me. The heroes of this book are primitive in their feelings and spontaneous in their expression of them; they have held fast to my memory for almost a score of years. Bold men and women who wade through armies and deserts in upholding their simple ideals; "whose souls seek the stars while their bodies are racked with hunger." All this is so strange to me, so wonderful and yet so real, real as the sun and the stars are real in spite of their immense distances.—To me this simple love story has been the true type of "romance."

Peabody, J. P. The piper.

812

As boys and girls we enacted the "Pied piper" in our childish plays. . . . To the concept of that pathetic legend the author has added a new charm, by making the children—real, live children—the conspicuous part of the dramatic argument, without in the least disturbing the historic tone of mystification. In reading it I made the acquaintance of an old friend with a new heart.

Schreiner, O. Trooper Peter Halket.

69b

The conflict of flint-hard realism and supernatural idealism cast in the mould of a polemic of South-African commercial policies. Finely artistic in construction, strong in dramatic power, and bold and original in conception. The author holds a unique place in the modern world of letters.

See, E. History of a proletarian family across the ages. 69b

The universal history of the civilized world since the time of Christ is written in these pages. The force that guides the author's hand is the spirit of democracy as he traces its incipency and growth through the Christian era. Wrapped in the mantle of romanticism, written with the skill of a Maupassant and the power of a Carlyle, this work stands in my mind as the greatest "purpose" novel ever penned.

No. 8

Andersen, H. C. Wonder book.

70

Of all the tales "The Snow-Queen" has always been my favorite. I pity the child who has so many books that Andersen's stories are not re-read frequently.

Bible. *Job*.

7

Its poetic dignity and humanity make it my favorite of the books of the Bible. I prefer it in the beautiful King James Version.

Browning, R. The ring and the book.

821

It is Browning's analysis of inner motive which most appeals to me. I like "to see the wheels go round." The greatest interest and beauty are reached in the parts entitled I. The ring and the book. VII. Pompilia. X. The Pope.

Burns, R. Poems.

821

There never comes a Sunday so depressing that Burns does not comfort and inspire me. His poems are lullaby songs to me. They bring me back to the sanity and beauty of life.

Cellini, B. Autobiography.

97b

As a picture of the Renaissance, a human document and a piece of literature, it seems to me great. Cellini is so frank that at times I fairly hold my breath. He is the prototype of all the swashbuckling heroes of later times, first cousin, it seems to me, to D'Artagnan.

Chaucer, G. Canterbury tales: The prologue. 821

The opening lines seem to me unsurpassed. Many of the tales fail to reach me; some are absolutely repulsive, but the Prologue I like all through.

Coleridge, S. T. The ancient mariner. 821

The poem has only revealed itself to me in the last few years. Now it holds me breathless. I can no more get away from the horror of it than could the Ancient Mariner himself.

Darwin, C. Origin of species. 46a

A wonderful book which gains with each re-reading. It is so simply set forth that it reads as easily as a novel and makes science less appalling to the unscientific.

Daudet, A. Tartarin on the Alps. 6f

It is the humor of Daudet which makes me particularly fond of Tartarin. The idea of a company arranging and exploiting the Alps somewhat after the fashion of a scenic railway seems to me irresistible. Daudet never says a word much, but in a few lines sets before you his picture of beauty, sadness or humor.

Eliot, G., pseud. Middlemarch. 69b

It is a great pleasure to see the characters develop as the story marches to its inevitable conclusion.

Fiske, J. Idea of God. 6f

It takes me to the regions of the eternal verities and helps me to feel a little more sure.

Gilbert, W. S. The Bab ballads. 821.04

They are so entirely funny. What should we do without "Gentle Alice Brown."

Kipling, R. Kim. 69b

I like it because it is so picturesque. Its philosophy, religion, humor, ethics, description of India, its manners and customs, all appeal to me. There are no really unlovely characters portrayed and some most lovable ones.

Lear, E. Nonsense songs. 70

One of my earliest recollections is of my mother singing "The Owl and the Pussy Cat" to my great satisfaction. It has never lost its charm to me.

Modern ghosts. 69b

This is a fine collection of ghost stories. Maupassant's "The Horla" seems to me the most convincing ghost story I have ever read and I am very much addicted to ghosts.

Morris, W. The well at the world's end. 69b

Morris' books are fairy tales for "grown-ups" to me. Their beautiful diction, simplicity and purity of imagination make them all delightful reading.

Motley, J. L. Rise of the Dutch Republic. 949.2

I find it a noble and inspiring story. To me its interest never flags.

Pater, W. Appreciations. 824

I particularly enjoy *Apollo in Picardy*, but the fine style and beautiful English of the whole book appeal to me.

Russell, W. C. The frozen pirate. 69b

I like sea stories, pirate stories and Arctic exploration. This book combines all three with humor added.

Scott, W. Old Mortality. 69b

I do not know when I first began to read this book. I must confess to reading with enjoyment even the long Introductions to Scott's novels. The Scotch Covenanters were in themselves a most interesting people. In Scott's hands they are a people of pure romance as alluring and much more wholesome than the nobility of French romance.

Shakespeare, W. The tempest. 822.33

I like *Prospero*, *Ariel* and *Caliban*. I like to contrast Shakespeare's *Caliban* with Browning's *Caliban upon Setebos*. Both are human.

Shelley, P. B. The sensitive plant. 821

Its beauty and delicacy of sentiment make it an unfailing source of joy to me.

Stevenson, R. L.

I find that I can not choose, I can not imagine giving up either *Travels with a Donkey*, *An Inland Voyage*, *The Black Arrow* or *Treasure Island*, to say nothing of the later books.

Tolstoi, L. N. The resurrection. 69b

I read it for courage. It seems so convincing. And if there were possibilities of clean living and redemption for *Katúsha* and *Nekhlúdoff* it seems to me that the world is not such a bad place after all.

Whitman, W. The open road. 811

It expresses the joy of the open air. No tramp (I do not mean hobo) can afford to pass it by. It has given its name to a collection of poems made by Lucas which is a good companion for a Sunday's tramp.

No. 9

Addams, J. Twenty years at Hull House. 331

A book not more illuminating in its recital of the author's heroic struggle for the alleviation of human misery, and the uplift of the masses, than in its revelation of her rare personality.

Annunzio, G. d'. Francesca da Rimini. 852

For sheer beauty of expression and artistry of construction, I think we have little in modern literature that can surpass this dramatic version of the famous legend.

Bennett, E. A. Buried alive. 69b

A flawless bit of humor.

Couch, A. T. Quiller. Oxford book of English verse. 821.08

I know of no more delightful book with which to while away odd moments, when in a lazy mood. One meets here only the poets at their best and may browse happily through the pages without fear of disillusionment by chill encounters with them at their worst.

Dumas, A. The three musketeers. 69b

The colossal audacity of the ubiquitous D'Artagnan and his inimitable three, their daring deeds that never were on land and sea, and the author's splendid indifference to the hampering considerations of time, space and possibility, have always filled me with keen delight.

Galsworthy, J. The little dream. 322

Exquisite in conception and imagery.

—— The patrician. 69b

Of rare beauty and finish of workmanship—a subtle criticism of the modern British aristocracy and a prophecy of its passing.

Hardy, T. The return of the native. 69b

A masterpiece in gray tones, sombre and majestic—its gloom lighted by flashes of humor, rustics truly Shakespearean, an unrivalled description of nature. A book not easily forgotten.

Hearn, L. Japan. 915.2

To me a thoroughly interesting study of the history, religion and customs of the Japanese. While the work is careful and conscientious it is not so exhaustive as to be exhausting and the author's sympathetic standpoint and pleasing style make for entertaining reading.

Ibsen, H. Peer Gynt. 839.82

This wierd drama fascinates by the wild music of its rhythm, its pervading note of mysticism and baffling symbolism, and perhaps by the difficulty of its interpretation.

Kelly, M. Little citizens. 69b

—— Wards of liberty. 69b

These skillful pen pictures of New York's foreign children, passing through the crucible of the public school grip one by their truthfulness to child-life and their poignant mingling of laughter and tears.

Lagerloef, S. O. L. The wonderful adventures of Nils. j398

A unique text-book in the form of a charming fairy tale. The boy Nils for his malice and cruelty is transformed into an elf and carried on the back of a wild goose over Sweden, learning much not only of its geography and history, but of the value of kindness and gentleness.

Sharp, W. (Fiona McLeod.) Dominion of dreams; Under the dark star. 69b

Steeped in beauty and the witchery of Celtic lore—the light of the spiritual mingled with the darkness of paganism and superstition.

Wells, H. G. Future in America. 917.3

One of the few foreign studies of this country which are not amusing to an American owing to the prejudices and hasty judgments of the authors. Mr. Wells shows a keen and alert comprehension of the conditions and problems of America life.

No. 10

Barrie, J. M. Little minister. 69b

On account of the delicious story and character of the hero, who is a brick. I don't care so much for Babbie.

Browning, E. B. Sonnets from the Portuguese. 821

Exquisite sentiment in musical verse.

Browning, R. In a balcony. 821

Realizes my ideal of good poetry in that it is neatly put, in brief compass, and deals beautifully with a rather difficult subject.

Deland, M. Old Chester tales. 69b

Tells interestingly of the kind of town that I would prefer to live in, and about the kind of people that I should like to associate with.

Doyle, A. C. Sherlock Holmes. 69b

So interesting and exciting that one does not stop to inquire whether its often impossible events are credible or not. The only detective stories that make me sit up at night.

Eliot, G., *pseud.* Adam Bede. 69b

Because its mixture of tragedy and humor comes so near to the realities of human life.

Gaskell, Mrs. E. C. Cranford. 69b

Whether true to life or not, it surely seems so and is vastly entertaining. I have read it eleven or twelve times and it improves on acquaintance.

Greely, A. W. Three years of Arctic service. 919.8

The best of all the Arctic books, excelling all others in its vivid pictures of the far north and its true tales of suffering and heroism. I dislike Peary's books. There is too much Peary in them.

Hichens, R. S. Garden of Allah. 69b

Makes you feel as if you had been to the desert yourself and found it a friendlier place than you had supposed. Something new in the way of a story.

Hugo, V. M. Les Misérables. 69b

The most powerful and heart-rending story I ever read—and most stories do not rend my heart at all.

Jewett, S. O.

Tells the exact truth about a region and characters with which I am thoroughly familiar, in the most fascinating manner possible. Whenever I am blue I read one of her stories and it cheers me up, as a talk with a dear friend might do.

Kipling, R. Jungle book. 70

I like all animal stories, and Kipling's animals are not figureheads. They live and move and have their being; and I am certain that they talked just as he reports them.

Phillpotts, E. Secret woman. 69b

A thrilling story from beginning to end, told in language that is almost lurid. The best of the author's stories. "Lying Prophets," his first, is the next best.

Robins, E. Magnetic North. 69b

I love all stories of adventure in lands of ice and snow; and this is exceptionally well told.

Roberts, C. G. D. Heart of the ancient wood. 69b

The most beautiful story of the woods that ever was written. The free life of the woodland creatures, untrammelled by the stupid laws of society, appeals to me.

Stephens, C. A. Camping out. 70

So interestingly told and about such an interesting subject that its literary merits or demerits pass unregarded. It probably possesses no literary value whatever.

Tennyson, A. Idylls of the King. 821

Favorites of my younger days, because I regarded them as absolutely true to life and expected to become an Enid or an Elaine myself at any minute. I know better now, but I love the rhythmic verses because I loved them when I was young.

Thackeray, W. M. Virginians. 69b

Because I read it at an impressionable age, when it seemed to me a wonderful portrayal of character. I still like it better than other books of the author that are more popular or more highly regarded.

Ward, Mrs. M. A. (A.) Sir George Tressady. 69b

The best modern English novel, and very far ahead of any other of the same author. Both in force and in sentiment it stands unsurpassed. Yet the author has written books hardly superior to the works of Mary J. Holmes.

White, S. E. The rules of the game. 69b

The story of a dead failure in business, who found his niche by taking to the woods where he belonged.

Wister, O. The Virginian. 69b

The prettiest love-story, told with the keenest humor, that I ever read.

Wyss, J. R. Swiss Family Robinson. 70

I love this quaint, old-fashioned tale, with its stilted conversation between dear, impossible characters whose wooden adventures are, strange to say, vastly entertaining.

No. 11**Barrie, J. M. Margaret Ogilvie. 97b**

A series of intimate pictures in the life of the author's mother, frankly and lovingly portrayed.

Brandes, G. M. C. On reading. 028

This little dissertation covers the subject in a few dozen pages and answers the questions

Why should we read?

What should we read?

How should we read?

Cholmondeley, M. The Danvers jewels. 69b

One of the best detective stories I ever read.

Clemens, S. L. Pudd'nhead Wilson. 69b

This is not a remarkable book, but I enjoy the extracts from Pudd'nhead Wilson's Calendar found at the head of each chapter. For instance—April 1. The day on which we are reminded of what we are the other three hundred and sixty-four.

Read for yourself what he has to say on Circumstantial evidence.

Edwards, A. B. A thousand miles up the Nile. S.S.916.2

This ponderous tome looks forbidding, but rewards the undaunted. "A donkey-ride and a boating trip interspersed with ruins" prove delightful when personally conducted by Miss Edwards, who was an archaeologist of note.

Evans, R. D. A sailor's log. 97b

Fighting Bob is a successful raconteur. His varied experiences furnish good copy whether the scene is laid in Chile, Behring Sea or Germany, where he took part in the opening of the Kiel Canal and entertained royalty. The description of the part taken by the Iowa in the sea fight at Santiago is a fitting climax for a sailor's log.

Fields, J. T. Yesterdays with authors. 928

A series of delightful personal reminiscences of the author's friendship with Thackeray, Dickens, Hawthorne and other great writers who were their contemporaries.

Gulick, L. H. The efficient life. Mq

——— Mind and work. 31e

Sensible talks which are worth re-reading. Both books contain "practical, up-to-date suggestions which should enable the brain worker to run his bodily machinery so as to improve his general efficiency."

Harris, J. C. Uncle Remus stories. 15

I like these tales because they are folklore studies and also because they are mighty entertaining yarns. I admire especially the Tar-baby who, when trouble is brewing, "says nothing"; and even when the situation becomes more trying "Tar-baby keeps on saying nothing."

Hensel, S. The Mendelssohn Family. 97

I like the description of the simple home life of the informal Sunday afternoon musicales which were open to their friends, and also the letters which passed between Felix and his gifted sister Fanny. There is a charming description written by Fanny, of the first performance of Midsummer-night's Dream given with the incidental music.

Hugo, V. 'Ninety-three.

69b

The historical novel has been defined as a book that is neither historical nor novel. Victor Hugo may have overlooked some of the historical data of this period, but Ninety-three is worth reading for its novel situations and incidents, including the encounter on shipboard of the man with a gun which has escaped from its moorings.

Huneker, J. G. Iconoclasts; a book of dramatists.

809.2

The first volume consists of characterizations of modern dramatists, including Ibsen, Hauptmann, Sudermann, Gorky, and Maeterlinck. The second volume deals largely with musical subjects. The sketches are brilliant and always readable whether or not one agrees with the writer's point of view.

Jefferies, R. Field and hedgerow.

123

One of the companionable books that tempts us out of doors and keeps us there. Mr. Jefferies has recorded faithfully and sympathetically the life of field and hedgerow, and has included many a quaint custom of the country folk.

Lucas, E. V., ed. The open road; a little book for wayfarers.

828

A good book to read, from cover to cover, in the open, and an equally good book to read when one is storm-bound on a bleak winter day.

Scott, Sir W. The talisman.

69b

My first knowledge of the Crusaders was acquired through the *Talisman* and, ever since, they have been invested with the glamour of the East. The contests of prowess between Richard Coeur de Lion and Saladin are very picturesque and, at times, dramatic.

Turgenev, I. S. Fathers and children.

69b

A strong novel, depicting the depressing conditions of Russian life. The characters show resignation—or is it simply hopelessness in the face of unalterable conditions?

Wendell, B. The France of to-day.

914.4

A few years ago, Mr. Barrett Wendell lectured at the French universities and, in this volume, he has recorded his impressions of the French people at home, their education, society and government. The book is decidedly worth while, for Mr. Wendell has something to say and says it in a very entertaining way.

No. 12

- Blake, Wm.** Poems. 821
The mystic and lyric quality of this verse sets the imagination soaring into strange, undreamed of worlds.
- Borrow, G.** *Romany Rye.* 69b
The wayside fires, the patterans, the gypsy camps, the procession of strange characters are full of romance and irresistible fascination.
- Burne-Jones, Lady.** *Memoirs of Sir Edward Burne-Jones.* 97b
An intimate, gossipy, appreciative picture of one of the interesting groups of modern men.
- Burton, Sir Richard.** *Personal narrative of a pilgrimage to El Medinah and Meccah.* 915.3
The story of a singular and dangerous journey and the revelation of a remarkable personality.
- Hope, A.** *Phroso.* 69b
A good yarn—the kind one sits up with all night.
- Homer.** *Odyssey*; tr. by Palmer. 883
This splendid translation has preserved the feeling, the stirring power and inspiration of the ancient epic.
- Jefferies., R** *Life of the fields.* 824
The lure of field and wood and hedgerow handled with the most delicate appreciation.
- Kingsley, C.** *Hereward the Wake.* 69b
Hereward is the most elemental type, but a real true hero nevertheless, the embodiment of those wild and lawless times.
- Macaulay, T.** *Lays of ancient Rome.* 821
These verses are tremendously inspiring to me, perhaps because of the sturdy old Roman spirit behind them.
- Malory, Sir T.** *Morte d'Arthur.* 398.2
The Arthurian legend is my favorite theme in literature, and it finds its most perfect expression in the middle English of Malory's version.
- Moore, T.** *Epicurean.* 69b
I like this for its imagination, mystery, and poetic feeling.

Nicolay and Hay. Abraham Lincoln. 97b

This is to me the most wonderful of biographies. It is the life of a world hero interpreted by two great men who knew and loved him well.

Pyle, H. Robin Hood. 70

I will admit I am old indeed when the joy of the green wood and the merry adventures of these lusty yeomen cease to appeal to me.

Ruskin, J. Nature of Gothic, fr. Stones of Venice. 65a

This is one of the most beautiful word pictures in English.

Snaith, J. C. Araminta. 69b

The abandoned whimsicality of this pleases something in me tremendously.

Sophocles. Antigone. 882

The heroine of this old classic seems to me the most splendid conception of womanly courage and dignity.

Stockton, F. R. Queen's museum and other fanciful tales. 69b

The humor of these is delightful. Hermits, griffins, necromancers, dryads, and such fanciful beings are all mixed up with every-day people in the most charming fashion.

Thompson, F. Shelley. 821

A poet's ideal of a poet.

Wilde, O. The importance of being earnest. 822

In clever dialog this play stands alone.

—House of pomegranates. 822

These little allegories are poems in prose—exquisitely beautiful.

No. 13

Brooks, Bp. Phillips. Life and letters of Phillips Brooks, by Alexander V. G. Allen. 97b

—Sermons. 11d

These I love because his life was an illustration of the faith he preached, too broad to be hampered by denominational littleness, too big to be measured by the world itself. Of how few preachers can it be said, as of him, that his sermons were his biography. They make tangible, and then restfully clear away, many vague spiritual gropings.

His letters, like Stevenson's, are so full of simple, boyish, unaffected charm that they delight me. They all show, grave and gay alike, how much humanity meant to him.

Cable, G. W. Grandissimes (and all his Creole stories.) 69b

They are full of a romantic charm. The dialect is deliciously musical. What could be a more pathetically perfect picture than that of Madame Delphine? It seems a little hard that a people could resent such loving portraits.

Clemens, S. L. Personal recollections of Joan of Arc. 69b

An exquisite memory picture of Joan of Arc, purporting to have been written by her page and secretary, and later translated into English. The style is simple and beautiful, and the feeling use of words makes us truly live again with her, and realize as never before, the heroic unselfishness of her pitifully short life.

—The prince and the pauper. 70

This has the additional glamour of having been a childhood favorite that made one period of history very real to me. After reading it I needed nothing more to convince me of the author's hatred for all shams and tender sympathy for all forms of suffering and oppression.

Farnol, J. Broad highway. 69b

Full of the charm of not only the highway, but of the lanes and hedges. It is a story of good clean adventure, and a distinct relief just now. After reading it I felt as if I had taken a deep breath of fresh country air.

Harper's young people. 70

I should not care to reread the early volumes that I loved. They are a precious memory, associated with the dear old numbers of the St. Nicholas in the Mary Mapes Dodge days.

James, Wm. Talks to teachers on psychology, and to students on some of life's ideals. 4b

They are not only for teachers, but for every one who has lived and wondered. They make some of the hard problems seem very simple, and show what a sane course a really great investigator can follow.

Kipling, R. Kim. 69b

I read this serially, and almost counted the days for the next number. When it was finished I sat down and revelled in its completeness. As a picture of a fascinating country it is so steeped in atmosphere that "Kim" seems one of my very own friends.

Lear, E. Nonsense books. j827

They have amused children for years, and done more to rest tired men and women than all the books on relaxation put together.

Martin, G. M. *Emmy Lou.* 69b

Every one who loves children should know and love Emmy Lou. She has helped to make understandable the round-about workings of many an earnest little mind.

Palmer, A. F. *Life by G. H. Palmer.* 97b

It is good to read a life so simple and natural as hers, and yet so far-reaching in its influence for good. Her husband has written feelingly of one who was dear to many people.

Ward, T. H. *English poets.* 821.08

Finding these years ago in a second-hand book store, I had the joy of "discovering" for the first time some of the poems that, with equal joy, I learned later were among the great and beautiful ones of the English language.

No. 14

Browning, Robert. *Poems.* 821

Browning's poetry fascinates me, because he is so essentially masculine in his thought and workmanship that I cannot always get his point of view. Also, I like his occasional sentiment and his optimistic philosophy.

Björnson, Björnstjerne. *Synnové Solbakken.* 69b

A simple story of peasant life in Norway which is both realistic and poetic and which brings me into intimate relations with truly childlike people. I read it when I am tired of Ibsen's people.

Bunyan, John. *Pilgrim's Progress.* 11g

I liked this first for its dramatic qualities. It was read aloud to me and was to me "a play." I like it now for its Puritanic religious spirit and its allegorical interpretations of life.

Carlyle, Mrs. Jane Baillie (Welsh). *Letters and memorials of Jane Welsh Carlyle; prepared for publication by Thomas Carlyle; ed. J. A. Froude.* 97b

I like biography in the informal and personal form of letters. These show the spirit of a sturdy Scotch woman in her struggle to adjust herself to ill health, limited finances and the details of home-keeping for a morose and irritable man of genius whom she dearly loved and admired. That she was appreciated is shown in the many foot notes signed T. C.

Drummond, W. H. *Johnnie Courteau and other poems.* 811

Not a great book, but I have read it again and again for its humor, its pathos, and its depiction of the character of the French-Canadian.

Emerson, R. W. Essays.

814

Emerson sums up for me in one terse sentence what seems to have been latent in my mind and sets me thinking.

Hardy, Thomas. Far from the madding crowd.

69b

In spite of the title and the rural setting this story is so true to human nature that it pleases my fancy from the opening chapter where Bathsheba appears sitting on the top of a load of household goods admiring herself in a mirror to the end where she invites Gabriel Oak's proposal with feminine wiles.

Harland, Henry. My friend Prospero.

69b

I like the cheerful philosophy of this "soldier of fortune," his chivalrous spirit and his wit. I also like the modern atmosphere of the story and its literary style. It is entertaining and restful.

Kingsley, Charles. Letters and memories of his life; ed.

by his wife. 2 v.

97b

These letters show the many sided interests of an English country parson; his devotion to his church, his interest in social problems, his love of books, his long friendships, his interest in geology and botany; his devotion to his wife and children. One cannot read this personal record without realizing the sweetness and nobility of the man and the far-reaching influence of his seemingly uneventful life.

Lamb, Charles. Essays of Elia.

824

It is difficult to define one's feelings for Charles Lamb, but I like his delicate sentiment and the elusive quality of his humor.

Lear, Edmund. Book of nonsense.

Ref. j827

Truly childlike humor.

MacDonald, George. Sir Gibbie.

69b

The most pathetic child in fiction and one of the most lovable.

Parkman, Francis. La Salle and the discovery of the Great West.

973.2

Reads like a romance and one feels the insistent adventurous spirit which was the real dominant force in the exploration and colonization of America.

Stevenson, R. L. Treasure Island.

70

I like the action and characterization and the fact that there is tragedy and yet no love-making.

No. 15

Browning, Mrs. E. B. Sonnets from the Portuguese. 821

The most sublime expression of a woman's love that I know.

Clemens, Samuel L. Pudd'nhead Wilson. 69b

I wish that I might have written this book. Pudd'nhead's quaint philosophy and the hair-raising incidents that follow upon the interchange of the negro and white babies, form a most diverting tale.

Horatius Flaccus, Q. Odes. 874

Of all the ancients to me Horace seems the most modern. His lyre is so much in tune with our times, that as I read I forget the centuries that divide us. I love his warm-heartedness and his broad, practical philosophy. His life and works are as refreshing to us today as they must have been to the busy men of his own time.

Hugo, Victor M. Poems. 841

Though his romanticism is a bit out of fashion, I love the poet's gentle fancies. He finds beauty in the most commonplace things. His horizon is broader than Burns', but like him, he has a deep sympathy for everything weak, tender, or trivial.

Mitchell, J. A. Villa Claudia. 69b

Admirers of Horatius Flaccus ought to enjoy this modern love story, the scene of which is laid on the site of Horace's Sabine farm. The plot is woven about the poet's boast that whoever drinks of his wine would be lifted to Olympus and would taste joys beyond all imaginings. The book is steeped in sensuous beauty and color.

Rostand, Edmond. Cyrano de Bergerac. 842

This witty Frenchman has never drawn a character with a mind so keen, or a soul so big, so romantic, or so lovable as the glorious Cyrano.

Sudermann, Hermann. Dame Care. 69b

This beautiful story of a son's noble self-denying life is told with wonderful understanding and pathos.

White, S. E. Silent places. 69b

This is the story of a winter in the frozen North. The plot is simple and the style rugged, and the atmosphere is so perfect that as I read, the terrible, oppressive stillness creeps over me and I am transported to the "Silent places."

No. 16

Baldry, A. L. Sir John Everett Millais. 97b

This is not remarkable in any literary way, but because of its many beautiful illustrations, it has made me familiar with the works of this great painter.

Cotes, Mrs. S. J. A social departure. 910.4

One of the most entertaining books of travel that I have ever read. The travelers, two young English women, are each happily possessed of a keen sense of humor, which enables them to make the best of many a trying adventure, in their unchaperoned journey around the world.

Duncan, Norman. Dr. Luke of the Labrador. 69b

I am very fond of this tale of the bleak coasts of Labrador. The author shows a very sympathetic understanding of the human heart in his delineation of the character of the doctor, who, repentant of his dissipated youth, devotes the remainder of his life to the comforting of the sorrows and ills of the poor, ignorant fisher-folk among whom chance has placed him.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. A wonder book for girls and boys. j292

These old stories retold in such a charming manner have never lost their fascination for me. The writer's gentle fancy has embellished the "classic coldness" of these myths, and made them far more pleasing to me.

Jacobs, W. W. Light freights. 69b

I always read eagerly stories of the sea and sea-faring men, and these overflow with fun and good humor.

Johnson, C. Isle of the Shamrock. 914.15

An interesting account of rambles on foot and in jaunting cars through the villages of the Irish peasantry. The beautiful illustrations, of course, add much to the charm of this book.

Kipling, R. The five nations. 821

I like the swing and the rugged force of Kipling's verse—especially in "The sea and the hills," "The bell-buoy," and "The recessionary."

Parker, Sir Gilbert. Pierre and his people. 69b

One can not restrain a liking for that queer mixture of good and bad—Pierre, the Canadian half-breed.

Pennell, J. P. Modern illustration. 65c

This book is especially pleasing to me, because it treats of an art that I have always longed to learn.

Steel, F. A. On the face of the waters. 69b

Idea This tale of the Indian mutiny of 1857 gives one a good
dipl of the character of the natives, and the great tact and
sess omacy necessary for successfully governing a people pos-
atm ed of so many caste prejudices. It is full of the restless
osphere of the East.

Tennyson, A. Poetic and dramatic works. 821

fam Tennyson is my favorite poet—perhaps because I am more
poetr liar with his works than with those of any other poet. His
Of ry is so pure in thought, so rich in melody and imagery.
to His shorter poems, "Crossing the bar," especially appeals
th me, because it is the expression of a deep hope and faith in
e life eternal.

Van Dyke, H. J. The other wise man. 69b

re One of the sweetest Christmas stories that I have ever
ad.

Watson, J. (Ian Maclaren). Beside the bonny brier bush. 69b

hu I like these humble Scottish stories with their mingling of
mor and pathos.

No. 17

Benson, E. F. Book of months. 828

set The thoughts and fancies of a very clever man are here
yea forth, the chapters being named for the months of the
kee r. The book is of compelling interest, and one experiences
n pleasure in reading it.

Burnett, F. H. Dawn of a to-morrow. 69b

are The characters are powerfully drawn and the situations
eme dramatic. I like Glad's philosophy, which is worthy of
to ulation. She says: "If things ain't cheerfu, peopl's got
but be," and "I'm used to bein' 'ungry and cold an' all that,
all —but I allers like to see what's comin' to-morrer. There's
ers somethin' else to-morrer."

Castle, Agnes and Egerton. If youth but knew. 69b

ex It seems to me that few writers of the present day can
Th el the Castles in the weaving of romance, pure and simple.
so ere is a wonderful charm about their work,—the fancy is
ely delicate and the English so pure that in the midst of nov-
"Ss indifferently written we must pause to admire. I like the
bit ar dreamer," "Light of Scarthey" and "Young April," too;
aj at the story of Geiger Hans, the wandering singer of youth,
to eals to me more, perhaps, than any of these. In addition
ic a charming love story it tells of a man who, in loving serv-
e for others, tries to forget his own deeply tragic past.

DeMorgan, W. Joseph Vance.

69b

While I like the entire book. I must confess that to me Joe's father is the most interesting character in it. The old rascal's success in business is an amusing instance of the well-known adage, that the world values us as we value ourselves.

Fowler, E. T. Concerning Isabel Carnaby.

69b

When this novel appeared a few years ago it was one of the most popular books of the day, and rightly so, for it was cleverly written and replete with amusing conversations—Isabel herself being very skilful at repartee.

Francis, M. E. Simple annals.

69b

These short stories of the lives of English working-women are beautifully and sympathetically written.

Hardy, T. Return of the native.

69b

I like this book for its description of Egdon Heath, which is wonderful.

Harland, H. My friend Prospero.

69b

This lovely fairy tale of a beautiful princess, a pious little girl, a lover and a world of sunshine, birds and flowers is good to read when one wishes to rest awhile from the cares and worries of the world. It reminds one of the "Abbé Constantine"—another favorite of mine.

Hilty, C. Happiness.

170.4

One reason why this book is interesting to me is that the author writes not as a preacher, but as a layman. He gives "the testimony of a spiritually-minded man of the world."

Lee, Vernon, *pseud. for* Violet Paget. Hortus vitae.

824

A volume of essays, embracing a wide variety of subjects, pleasing on account of the many bits of humor and kind philosophy it contains. The author does well to remind us that "It is no use relying on artists, poets, philosophers, or saints to make something of the enclosed spaces or the wastelands of our souls: 'Il faut cultiver notre jardin'—We must cultivate our garden.'"

Lever, C. Charles O'Malley, the Irish dragoon.

69b

I read this first one summer while visiting some Irish friends who had a number of Lever novels in their library. The gallant O'Malley was the most entertaining acquaintance I had made in my reading up to that time and I couldn't see how fair Lucy Dashwood could resist him so long! The stories of Irish country life, as well as those of adventures in foreign lands, are most exhilarating. I have read the book four times.

Marryat, Capt. Frederick. Children of the New Forest.

170

It is a sad commentary on the literary life of the village in which I was born that the circulating library could not be kept

circulating. Nevertheless to this woeful fact I owe one of the greatest pleasures in my life,—acquaintance with the Children of the New Forest,—for this book, with Marryat's "Little Savages," Abbott's "Empress Josephine" and "Mary, Queen of Scots," and some others, fell to our share when finally the library was divided among the members. Mother first told us Marryat stories in the evenings before bed time; then when the children learned to read we eagerly sought these books and came to know them almost by heart. The "Children of the New Forest" was our favorite because it related the adventures of four Cavalier refugees who went to live with Jacob, an old little farmer, their own home having been burned by the Roundheads. Marvelous, indeed, were the things these children learned: They lassoed wild horses and cattle in the forest; they went hunting with Jacob, stalking the deer and bringing them down in good fashion, afterwards making wonderful venison pasties; they hid in the fern whenever the Roundheads came knocking by—each day bringing new and interesting tasks. Finally at the time of the Restoration the king returned to the children their property, which had been confiscated, and they lived happily ever after. Such stories make a wonderful appeal to a child's imagination. In this book I first recognized the charm of such words as dell, copse, bracken and thicket; and to this source also I owe my first knowledge of Oliver Cromwell, the Restoration, Roundheads and Cavaliers.

No. 18

I much prefer the survey and government documents to other non-fiction and to a great deal of fiction. In the first place, they are "tense with human interest" as the "Publishers' Weekly" would say; they are up-to-date, concise, true. And the search for the author's personality has unlimited possibilities. When you are wasting time on the cars, for instance, you can be imagining what sort of a person wrote that article, and why.

Carroll, Lewis. *Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass.* 70

I chortle again and again at the rather peculiar sporting use of the queen, at "pig and pepper," at the fat vanishingeshire, and so on ad infinitum.

Cicero. *Letters.* 876

It is a shame that most of us on account of struggles with syntax and grammar in High School, will have nothing to do with things Ciceronian when we are grown. Cicero was really "great old chap," as human as could be. His letters are as intimate and delightful as Stevenson's. I like best the ones written by the loving but business-like father to the little Julia.

Strahan-Davidson's well-written life helps a great deal.

Foster, C. H. Cookery for little girls.

641

Every recipe is sensible and practicable.

The chapter on The Interesting Potato is unsurpassed inspirational reading. Like finding sermons in stones, for one may find a moral in potatoes, for "every girl should know how to cook potatoes properly . . . but how often are they served wet and soggy!"

Grahame, Kenneth. Golden age.

59b

I, too, in my childhood lived under the same roof with Olympians "those elders, our betters by a trick of chance, whose existence seemed to be entirely void of interests even as their habits were stereotyped and senseless." And then even saddening doubt, a dull suspicion, creeps over me. Can it be that I also have become an Olympian?"

Howells, W. D. Rise of Silas Lapham.

69

So thoroughly American.

Irving, Washington. Sketch book.

81

In spite of modern improvements, particularly billboard, the Catskill country will always seem to me a succession of Sleepy Hollows and prosperous Dutch farms where blooming Katrina Van Tassels are forever baking spicy cakes.

Plato. Phaedo.

2

The last few pages, where Socrates drinks the hemlock poison, are the most dramatic and tragic I know. The translation by Church in the Golden Treasury series is perfect in its simplicity and naturalness.

Pyle, Howard. Merry Adventures of Robin Hood.

j3 98

Truly "merry."

Scott, Sir Walter. Ivanhoe.

6

"A tale which holdeth children from play and old men from the chimney corner."

Thackeray, W. M. Vanity Fair.

6

In "Before the Curtain," Thackeray says: "There are scenes of all sorts; some dreadful combats, some grand and lofty horse-riding, some scenes of high life and some of very middling indeed; some love-making for the sentimental, and some light comic business, the whole accompanied by appropriate scenery, and brilliantly illuminated with the author's own candles." I wish more authors nowadays would try to obtain candles like Thackeray's instead of the Tungstens and searchlights of "realism."

No. 19

Amicassin and Nicolette, done into English by Andrew Lang. (Mosher.) 69b

There is an air of simplicity and refinement in this little love story. It is full of sorrow, yet I felt the keenest joy in the manner of the adventures and the exquisite expression of nature.

Barrie, J. M. Neither Dorking nor the Abbey. 1910. 828

A wonderful prose intimation of immortality, simple, sincere and beautiful. It is a perfect tribute to the memory of George Meredith.

Chesterton, G. K. Alarms and discursions. 1911. 824

There is a surprising amount of truth and beauty among the clever sayings of Gilbert Chesterton. The essay called "The glory of grey," in this book, is very attractive.

Couch, Sir A. T. Q.- The pilgrim's way. 1907. 808.8

This little anthology contains many delightful poems and bits of prose.

Cox, K. The classic point of view. 1911. 750

I like this because it is such a clear and readable attempt to bring about a right perception of the spirit and meaning of art. There is also good critical comment on the work of the modern schools of painting.

De Morgan, W. F. A likely story. 1911. 69b

I find a great deal of pleasure in the style of De Morgan. I enjoyed the humor and character drawing of this story very much but the Italian prototype is more interesting to me than the modern setting.

Dickens, C. David Copperfield. 69b

There is more of human quality in this book, and less exaggeration, than in any of Dickens' books I have read. It is perfectly charming all the way through.

Eddy, A. J. Recollections and impressions of James McNeill Whistler. 97b

This was my first introduction to the fascinating and erratic personality of this genius. I have been reading about him ever since.

Galsworthy, J. Motley. 1910. 828

The expression of everyday impressions is extraordinary. More than any book I have read, does this one show the mere power of writing.

Lockwood, L. E., and Kelley, A. R. Letters that live. 9

Usually I don't care for collections of letters, but these are most interesting and possess rare charm.

Merejkowski, D. S. The romance of Leonardo da Vinci. 6

The lives of the artists of the Italian Renaissance have always interested me, and this very fascinating story is a fine portrayal of the life and times of Leonardo.

Gérard de Nerval. Sylvie, tr. by L. Page. (Mosher.) 69

I like this little idyll for the spirit of youth and spring time which fills it.

Pater, W. Imaginary portraits. 1901. 82

Of these "The Prince of Court Painters" is my favorite.

Pyle, H. The story of King Arthur and his knights. j398

I like everything that Howard Pyle has written or drawn. This particular book is full of beauty and romance, and the story of King Arthur is well told both in words and pictures.

Couch, Sir A. T. Q.- Brother Copas. 1911. 69

I like the historical associations of this book, the philosophy of Brother Copas, and the scholarly atmosphere which pervades the story.

Ruskin, J. Sesame and lilies. 82

The dignity and charm of the influence of good books and character is beautifully expressed. I like all Ruskin's writings; he has such wonderful strength in word structure.

Sand, G., pseud. Master mosaic workers. 69

I enjoyed the picture of the life of the craft workers of the Renaissance, and the color and charm that Venice gives to everything.

Schreiner, O. Dreams. 69

A most beautiful allegory on the meaning of life, full of poetic and imaginative quality.

Stevenson, R. L. Child's garden of verses. j82

These lovely poems of childhood are like memory rather than invention.

Vasari, G. Lives of the painters, sculptors and architects. 97

The very atmosphere of the time and manner is preserved in these quaint and interesting lives of the artists.

No. 20

- Browning, R.** Blot on the 'scutcheon. 822
 Tresham's love for his sister is one of the most appealing things I know.
- Crockett, S. R.** Black Douglas. 69b
 I like it because it is so bloodthirsty.
- Dickens, Chas.** Bleak House. 69b
 A curious combination of the finest kind of a detective story and a homely chronicle of simple and beautiful lives.
- France, A.** Le livre de mon ami. 69e
 Charming revelation of a child's heart.
- Hardy, Thos.** Pair of blue eyes. 69b
 It is almost impossible to tell why I like this book so well—perhaps it is because Elfrida is such a human person to me.
- Irving, W.** Alhambra. 914.6
 A collection to absorb bit by bit with unlimited time for flights of imagination between stories.
- James, Henry.** Portrait of a lady. 69b
 A favorite because of the character of Ralph Touchett.
- Kanvier, Thos.** Aztec treasure house. 69b
 A delightfully impossible adventure and so well told that it is almost convincing.
- Loti, Pierre.** An Iceland fisherman. 69b
 Mr. Loti is such a skillful workman that the atmosphere he creates is positively spell-binding. The Iceland fisherman carries the reader into the cold North and around the world to China, and into the heart of his heroine with a charm that it is difficult to equal.
- Marsh, C. L.** Opening the oyster. 910.4
 A stunning adventure story. I read it first when I was very young and I have returned to it a number of times.
- Mason, A. E. W.** Four feathers. 69b
 I like this book because it is such a good story.
- Ovid.** Selections from the Metamorphoses. 871
 Attractive at first because of the pleasant change from the drudgery of Caesar. Later familiarity made the musical lines a pleasure.

Parkman, F. LaSalle and the discovery of the Great West. 973.2

The author makes LaSalle a personal hero. The bigness of the man and the tragedy of his life are wonderfully handled. 1.

Rostand, E. Princess Far-away. 84.2

The atmosphere of the little play lingers with the reader a long time. r

Schiller, J. C. F. Wilhelm Tell. 83.2

The inspiring lines should make a patriot of the most hopeless clod. st

Tolstoi, L. Anna Karenina. 69.2

One is divided between admiration for the story itself and its telling. 8

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Shakespeare, W. Plays and sonnets.....	6
—As you like it.....	1
—Hamlet	5
—Macbeth	5

—The tempest	8
Sharp, W. (Fiona McLeod). Dominion of dreams; Under the dark star.....	9
Shaw, G. B. Plays.....	5
Shelley, P. B. The sensitive plant.....	8
Smith, F. H. Gondola days.....	1
Snaith, J. C. Araminta.....	12
Sophocles. Antigone.....	12
Steel, F. A. On the face of the waters.....	16
Stephens, C. A. Camping out.....	10
Stevenson, R. L. [Complete works].....	8
—Child's garden of verses.....	19
—Travels with a donkey.....	1
—Treasure Island	14
Stockton, F. R. Queen's museum and other fanciful tales	12
Sudermann, H. Dame Care.....	15
Sue, E. History of a proletarian family.....	7
Survey	18
Tennyson, A. Idylls of the king.....	1, 10
—Locksley Hall	6
—Poetic and dramatic works	16
Thackeray, W. M. Henry Esmond.....	5, 6
—Vanity Fair	18
—Virginians	10
Theocritus. Idylls	1
Thomas of Celano. Dies irae.....	2
Thompson, E. S. Lives of the hunted.....	6
Thompson, F. Shelley.....	12
Tolstoi, L. Anna Karenina.....	20
—The resurrection	8
—War and peace.....	5
Trollope, A. Novels, esp. Barchester series.....	2
Trevelyan, Sir G. O. American revolution.....	2
Turgenev, I. S. Fathers and children.....	11
U. S. Government Documents.....	18
Van Dyke, H. J. Other wise man.....	16
Vasari, G. Lives of the painters.....	19
Waddington, Mrs. M. A. (K.) Country life in France.....	3
Ward, Mrs. M. A. (A.) Sir George Tressady.....	10
Ward, T. H. English poets.....	13
Watson, J. Beside the bonny brier bush.....	16
Wells, H. G. Future in America.....	9



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List No

—A modern Utopia.....	5
—[Stories]	2
Wendell, B. The France of today.....	11
White, S. E. Rules of the game.....	10
—Silent places	13
Whitman, W. The open road.....	8
Wilde, O. Importance of being earnest.....	12
—House of pomegranates.....	12
Wilkins, M. E. Short stories.....	2
Wister, O. Lady Baltimore.....	2
—Virginian	10
Wordsworth, W. Intimations of immortality.....	6
Wyss, J. R. Swiss Family Robinson.....	10
Yeats, W. B. Land of the heart's desire.....	5

SUMMARY BY CLASSES.

	No. of books.	Per Cent
General works	2	.62
Philosophy	3	.93
Religion	8	2.50
Sociology	5	1.56
Natural science	4	1.24
Useful arts	1	.31
Fine arts	6	1.86
Poetry	37	11.49
Drama	18	5.59
Adult fiction	139	43.17
Children's fiction	21	6.52
Literature	30	9.31
History	6	1.86
Travel	18	5.59
Biography	24	7.45
Total	322	100.00